Engaging Receiving Communities through Messaging

Presentation by Christina Pope at Cambio de Colores (Change of Colors) 2016 conference, June 8-10, 2016 in Columbia, MO.



WHAT WE DO

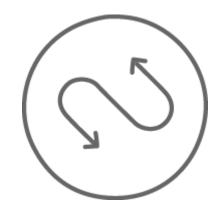
CONNECT



CHANGE











BUILDING A NATION OF NEIGHBORS

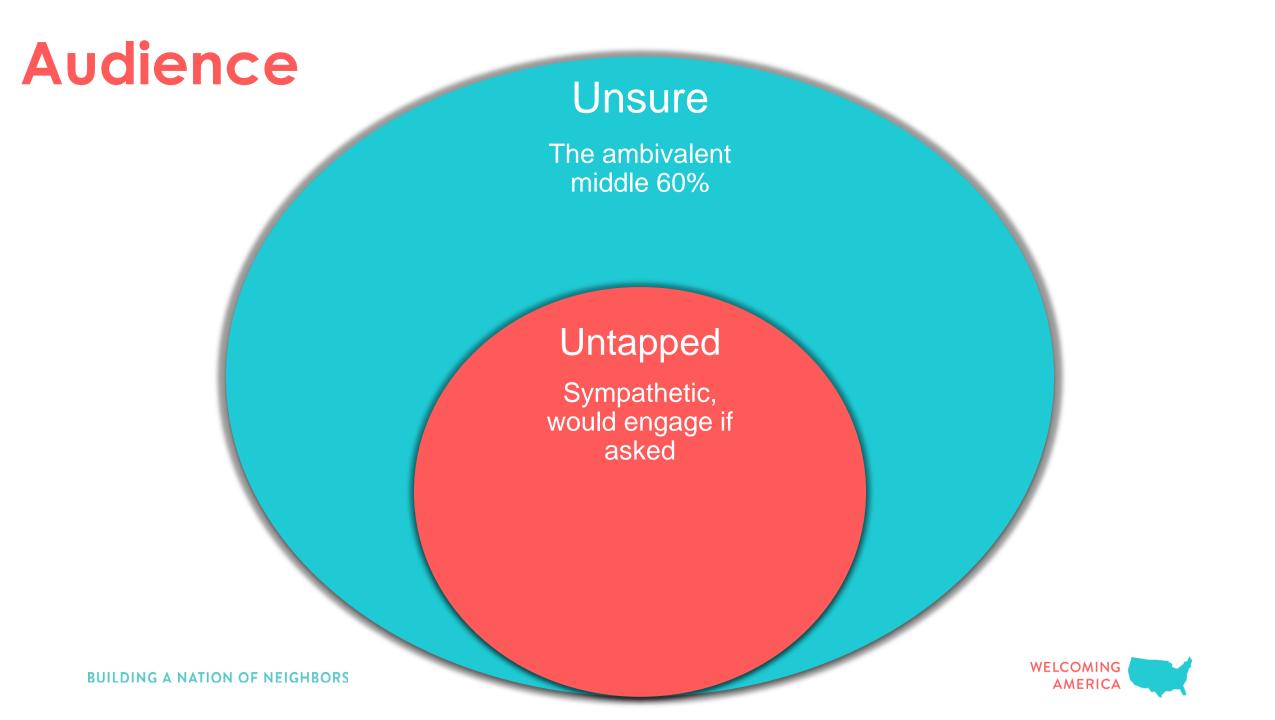
THE INNOVATION



MOVING COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WELCOMING SPECTRUM







RECEIVING COMMUNITIES APPROACH



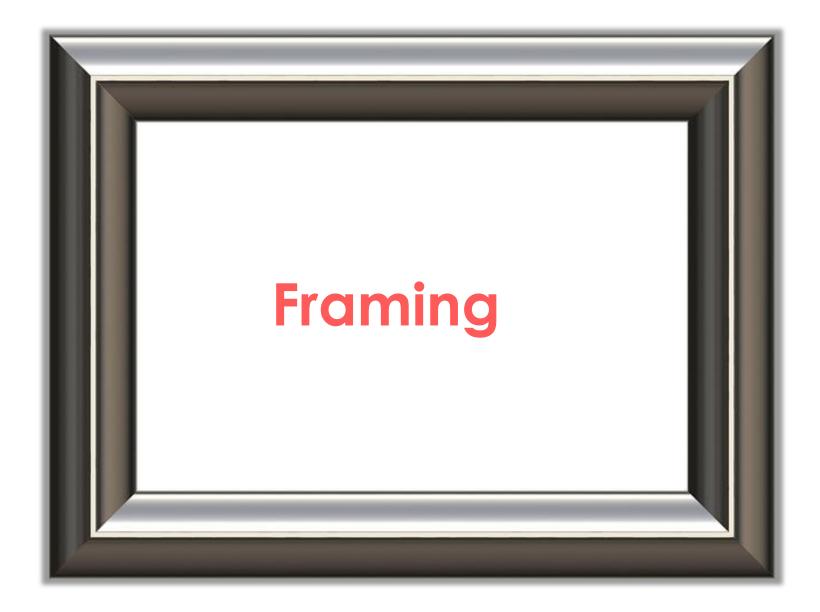


Communication & Message Framing

Why Communications?

- An essential tool in fostering a more positive community climate for immigrants
- A means to an end: helps to engage people who will help you reach your goals.
- Clarifies who we need to reach, how to speak to them, and through what channels.







How are immigrants framed now?





What would be better?





New Frames: STRONGER TOGETHER

Our community's success depends on making sure everyone who's a part of it—including immigrants—feels welcome here. Becoming a more welcoming community means more customers for our local businesses, more jobs created by immigrant entrepreneurs, and a thriving economy that benefits us all.

By recognizing the contributions that we all make to creating a vibrant culture and a growing economy, we make our neighbors feel more included and our community more welcoming to new Americans and to everyone who calls our community home.



DIFFERENT PASTS, ONE FUTURE

In this country we believe each person should have an equal opportunity to make it if they work hard. That should be true regardless of the color of your skin or where your ancestors were from. Because no matter who our ancestors were, they all wanted the freedom to speak, to pray, and to raise their children with hope.

We may not all share the same history, but we share one future as a country. We need to stop thinking in terms of us versus them and start thinking in terms of just us: Americans united by the bonds of shared freedom and equality. If we can do that, there's nothing we can't do together.



COMPETITIVE EDGE

Competing in a twenty-first century economy means taking full advantage of our most important resource—our people. And that means welcoming the new Americans who are starting businesses, committing to our community, and helping build a stronger local economy.

Communities across the country and around the world are in a race to the top to attract the human capital that will allow them to thrive in a global economy. Becoming a more welcoming place for immigrants gives us a leg up in that competition and helps us retain talented people of all backgrounds.

Working together to build a twenty-first century economy means making sure everyone who lives here feels welcome and included, no matter where they were born.



Know Your Audience*

*your audience isn't you



Value: Community





Value: Faith





Value: Economic Contributions

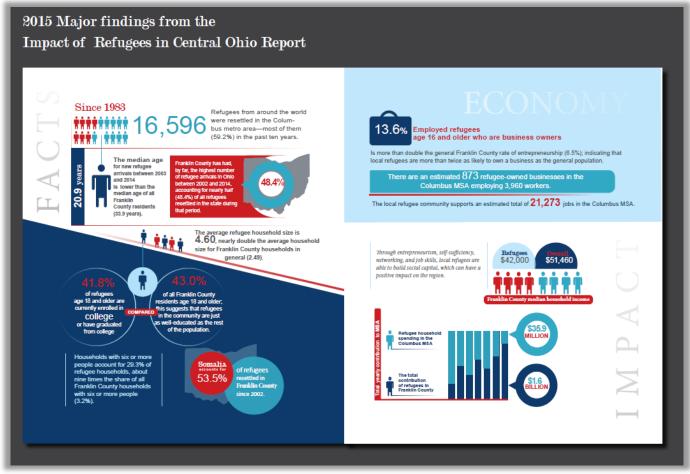






Balance Stories and Facts





Impact of Refugees in Central Ohio 2015 Report



Which resonates?







Communicate through credible spokespeople





"In this country, values, integrity, honesty and hard work pay off every time. Sharpen your pencil; be willing to learn new things and try new experiences and the skies are wide open for you."





Stay Positive, Focus on Solutions





Key Principles

- Start with positive, relatable messages that speak to shared, local values
- Communicate through spokespeople with greatest credibility
- Focus on how receiving communities benefit, vs. how they are obligated
- Involve immigrants and refugees

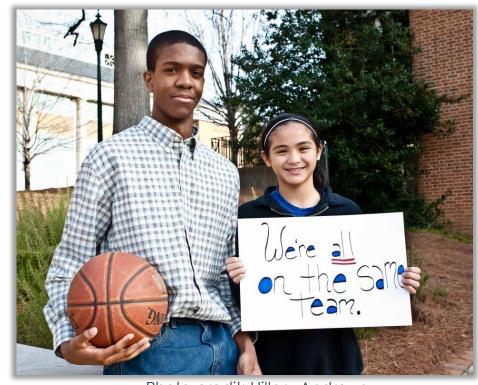


Photo credit: Hillary Andrews

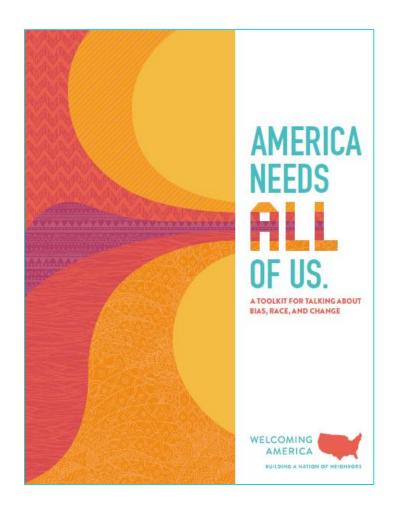


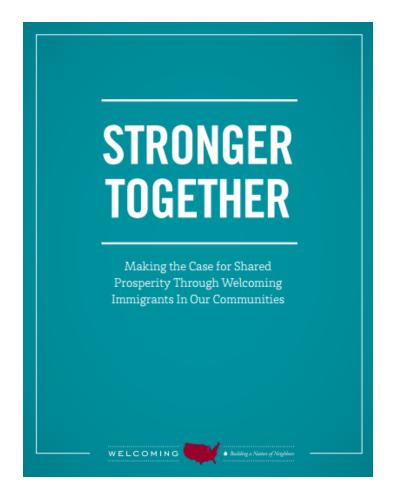
Pitfalls

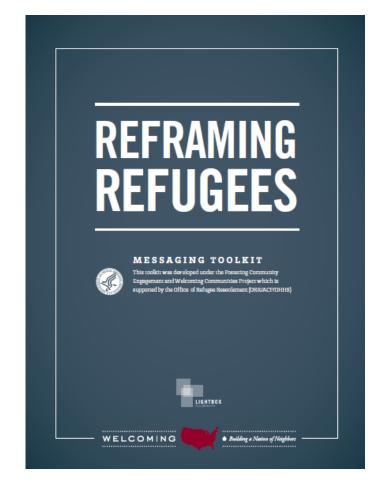
- Don't restate myths
- Avoid using dividing language (good/bad immigrants)
- Partnership matters. It's hard to create an echo chamber when everyone is in a different room.



MESSAGING RESOURCES









WELCOMING WEEK











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